

# *Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events*

## **Indiana Dunes State Park**

**1600 N. 25 E.**

**Chesterton, Indiana 46304**

**NC # (219) 926-1390**

**Park Manager: Brandt Baughman**

**Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke**



*Black-throated Blue Warbler*

**Nature Center Staff:**

**Brad Bumgardner**

**David Garner**

**September Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

### **Monday, August 27**

**3pm Winged Migration.** Fly with the birds! Come flock to the Nature Center for this amazing 90 minute documentary on bird migration. It won the Academy Award for best documentary a few years ago. Seating first come, first serve.

### **Tuesday, August 28**

**10am Indiana Dunes Rocks!** Meet Dale at the Nature Center for a 45 discovery of the ice, wind, and water that helped shape the Indiana Dunes.

### **Wednesday, August 29**

**3pm Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

### **Thursday, August 30**

**10am Mt. Tom Bound!** Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk to Mt. Tom, our highest dune. We'll explore it's creation on this hour hike. DG

**3pm Critter Feeding Hour!** Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DG

### **Friday, August 31**

**3pm Leave it to Beaver!** Join the Naturalist for a look at the dune beavers! We'll meet outside the nature center for this 45-minute easy walk. Join us! BB

**4-7pm EAB Awareness Station!** Watch for the naturalist at the campground gate, with educational materials and bumper stickers about the emerald ash borer. DG

### **Saturday, September 1**

**10am Dune Climbing!** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for this 1-hour rugged hike to the top of Mt. Jackson, the third highest point in the park. BB

**1pm Park Patch Program Hour.** Visit the Nature Center to learn what you can do to earn the Smokey's Friend (5-7 year old) patch and Junior Naturalist (8+ year old) patch. Fun for all ages! BB

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. If the weather is chilly, watch for him in the campgrounds. What special things will he have!? DG

**7:30pm Campfire Tonight!** Join the naturalist for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 116). Kids, please bring a parent if you are under 12. Join us! BB

### **Sunday, September 2**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Scatology...** is the study of what!? Scoot your behinds to the Nature Center for a fun look at the science of animal poop! We'll be playing a game with fun prizes! Great family fun! BB

**3pm Get Lost!** Ever been lost in the woods? Learn how to use a compass during this 30 min. hands-on activity at the Nature Center. DG

**7pm September Summit Sunset.** Join the naturalist for a hike to the highest point in the park and be rewarded by the wonderful view during this one hour, moderate hike from the Campground Gate. DG

### **Monday, September 3, Labor Day!**

**9am Labor Day Morning Meander.** Meet the naturalist at the Campground Gate for a backwoods search for some morning birds out and about. Bring binoculars if you have some, or borrow a pair of ours. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. DG

**3pm End of Summer Saunter.** Summer is coming to an end, and we'll end it with a relaxing walk along the Dunes' Beach. Explore great formations and amazing scenery on this hike from the Beach Pavilion. Total time, about one hour. DG

### **Tuesday, September 4**

**3pm Geocaching Jaunt.** Meet the Interpreter at the front of the Nature Center for a fun scavenger hunt, with a techno twist! Learn about GPS units and geocaching in this fun, one hour program. BB

### **Wednesday, September 5**

**10am Nature Center Birds** Join us at the Nature Center for a short stroll around the Nature Center grounds, looking for some of the early fall migrants. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

### **Thursday, September 6**

**3pm Scales And Tales!** Meet some of the resident reptiles up close during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. DG

### **Friday, September 7**

**10am Wetland Stroll.** Explore the wetlands with the naturalist this morning. Meet at the Nature Center for an easy 45-minute walk. DG

**3pm Winged Migration.** Fly with the birds! Come flock to the Nature Center for this amazing 90 minute documentary on bird migration. It won the Academy Award for best documentary a few years ago. Seating first come, first serve.

### **Saturday, September 8**

#### **History Comes Alive Weekend!**

*Join us for special activities all weekend!*

**9am-8:30pm Voyageurs Encampment.** Be sure to visit the Ojibwa Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

**10am INShape Walk-** Join us at the Pavilion for a 2-mile fitness walk along the beach, one of more than 20 happening simultaneously around the state. Free park passes for the DNR INShape Day are available at [www.in.gov/INShape](http://www.in.gov/INShape).

**1pm Fur Trading Trek!** Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Gate for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow a pair of ours! BB

**3pm Prairie Club Hike!** Nearly 100 years ago, the Prairie Club hiked these hills of sand. Join the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a beach stroll looking at the same sights they enjoyed. DG

**7pm Tales from the Past!** Bring a blanket or lawnchair (and marshmallows for roasting!) to the beach for an evening of ghost stories and shipwreck tales under the stars. Curl up by our campfire, as we explore Indiana Dunes' past. Meet on the beach, near the Pavilion. BB

### **Sunday, September 9**

#### **History Comes Alive Weekend!**

**10am Voyageur's Hike.** Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Gate for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago. DG

**1pm Shipwreck!** Gather in the Nature Auditorium for a short video and program on the shipwrecks of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards we'll walk outside and see some relics from these massive ships, and offer a car pool to the Beach to see where some shipwrecks are! BB

**The Lake Michigan Coastal Program will be sponsoring Coast Week 2007 September 8-16.**

The Coastal Program and several other organizations are working together to sponsor a wide variety of events to celebrate the diversity and splendor of the Lake Michigan coastal region.

### **Monday, September 10**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

## **Tuesday, September 11**

**10am Leave it to Beaver.** Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll looking at the dam builders of Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

**3pm Behind the Scenes of the Nature Center.** Join us in the Nature Center for a rare look at some of the oddball collections that can be found at the Indiana Dunes Nature Center. Behind the scenes tours given afterwards. BB

## **Wednesday, September 12**

**3pm Nature Center Herp Hour!!** Crawl into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the turtles and frogs of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards we can sit in a circle and watch 'em crawl! DG

## **Thursday, September 13**

**10am Mt. Tom Bound!** Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk to Mt. Tom, our highest dune. We'll explore it's creation on this hour hike. DG

**6:30pm The Care and Feeding of an Indiana State Park.** Join the Naturalist at the Nature Center Auditorium for this special Coast Week program, looking at what it takes to raise a great Indiana State Park! BB

## **Friday, September 14**

**3pm The Power of Water.** Meet the naturalist at the beach, by the pavilion, for a look at how water shapes the dunes. DG

## **Saturday, September 15**

**10am Tremont!** Tremont means three mountains... and that's where we'll head this morning! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for a semi-rugged hike to visit Indiana Dunes' three highest dunes. We'll be out for a little over an hour. Join us! BB

**3pm Winged Migration.** Fly with the birds! Come flock to the Nature Center for this amazing 90 minute documentary on bird migration. It won the Academy Award for best documentary a few years ago. Seating first come, first serve.

**6:30pm Sunset Climb.** Join the Naturalist to climb one of the tallest dunes in the area and discover one of the most beautiful sunsets you'll ever lay eyes on during this 1 hour hike from the Campground Gate. BB

## **Sunday, September 16.**

**8:30am Fall Warbler Wander.** Meet the naturalist at the Campground Gate for an early morning meander in search of the migrating fall birds. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

## **Monday, September 17**

**3pm Scatology!** Get gross with the naturalist today as we explore those things left behind by animals! Fun games and prizes for those that know their poop! Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium. BB

## **Tuesday, September 18**

**10pm Fossil Fun.** Meet Dale at the Nature Center for a 45 discovery of the ice, wind, and water that helped shape the Indiana Dunes. We'll also look at the fossils that can be discovered nearby!

## **Wednesday, September 19**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

## **Thursday, September 20**

**10am Dune Succession Stroll.** Meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a stroll on Trail 3. We'll look at how the dunes were formed, as well as the habitats it supports. Join us! DG

## **Friday, September 21**

**10am Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

**3pm Snakes Alive!** Find out more about the Indiana Dunes snakes in this 45-minute program in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

## **Saturday, September 22**

**10am Trail 2 Trek.** Join us at the Campground Gate for a short hour, easy hike on Trail 2. We'll explore the life that occurs here! Join us! DG

**3pm Naturalist on the Run!** Watch for the naturalist in the campgrounds. What surprises might they have today? DG

### **Sunday, September 23.**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. DG

**3pm Dune Detectives.** Want to solve natural mysteries? We'll get you started during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. DG

### **Monday, September 24**

**10am Reptiles in the Dunes.** Experience the scaly side of the park during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. DG

### **Tuesday, September 25**

**10am Birds After Breakfast.** Join us at the Nature Center Entrance for a short look at the migrating birds that arrived overnight. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours and join us for this short 45-minute walk. BB

### **Wednesday, September 26**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

### **Thursday, September 27**

**3pm Critter Feeding Hour!** Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DG

### **Friday, September 28**

**3pm Preparing for the Deep Freeze.** Discover how animals of the dunes prepare for the coming winter during this 1-hr easy hike from the Nature Center. DG

### **Saturday, September 29**

**10am Fire on the Prairie!** Join us in the Nature Center for a fun look at how not all fire is bad! We may even light some fire ourselves if the conditions are right! BB

**3pm Naturalist on the Run!** Watch for the naturalist in the campgrounds. What surprises might they have today? DG

**7:30pm Campfire Tonight!** Join the naturalist for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 116). Kids, please bring a parent if you are under 12. Join us! BB

### **Sunday, September 30**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

**11am Fall Color Birding.** Join us for a late morning search for some of the late fall migrating birds that may be in the area. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours, and meet at the Nature Center. BB

**Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at**  
[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)

**Make a campsite or shelter reservations at**  
1-866-622-6746 or  
on-line at [www.CAMP.IN.gov](http://www.CAMP.IN.gov)

## **Fall Bird Migration at the Dunes**

Located at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, the Indiana Dunes is an important feeding and resting area for migrating birds. Lake Michigan influences the migration patterns of bird species. During the fall migration southbound birds follow the north-south shoreline and are funneled into the Indiana Dunes. Also, the large expanse of open water and miles of shoreline can attract large numbers of wintering birds.

The Indiana Dunes provides an excellent opportunity for birders to see a variety of bird species. Birders can observe hawks during migration from the top of a sand dune, watch



waterfowl with a spotting scope from the shoreline, or look for wetland birds in remnant sections of the Great Marsh. Whether you have beginner or advanced identification skills, the Indiana Dunes is a great place for birders. A seasonal bird checklist is available to help identify and find the birds of Indiana Dunes. See the Nature Center to get your own copy. Better yet, join us for one of our scheduled bird hikes this month to see some of the avian wonders all around us!